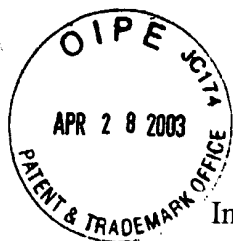


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PATENT APPLICATION

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14
6-7-03



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

RICHARD F. BELLAS, ET AL.

Appln. No.: 09/978,019

Filed: October 17, 2001

For: CARBONATION SYSTEM AND
METHOD

Examiner: C. Busher

Group Art Unit: 1724

April 28, 2003
(Monday)

RECEIVED
APR 29 2003
GROUP 1700

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action dated March 27, 2003.

A careful review of the specification reveals that the various species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

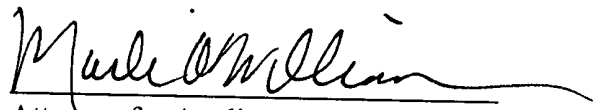
Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect Species B, represented by Figs. 7-14. It is respectfully

submitted that at least Claims 1-28 and 44-53 read on the elected species. Claims 1-13 and 44-48 are believed to be generic to Species A and B.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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